I. *A Letter from Dr* William Muſgrave, *F R. S. to the Publiſher, concerning a very extraordinary Periodical* Hæmorrhage.

S I R,

I Some years ſince receiv'd an account of a ſurprizing illneſs, from the perſon who had labour'd under it: The ſame has been atteſted to me by his Wife and ſeveral of his acquaintance, and therefore I think it may deſerve Credit.

Mr *H.* formerly a Servant to *Queen Dowager*, of late to Mrs *Jennings*, of *Burton* in *Somerſetſhire*; had (from his Infancy, as he has been inform'd, but to his certain knowledge) from as far back as he can remember, up to the twenty fourth year of his age, a *Periodical Hæmorrhage* in one of his Thumbs.

The *Time* of the Eruption was about the full of the Moon, ſeldom more than a day before or after it. The Orifice (to ſpeak more exactly) on the Right ſide of the Nail of the Left Thumb. He has not known the Blood to be leſs in weight at any one Turn, or Periodical Diſcharge, than four ounces; and is poſitive, that when he came to be ſixteen years of age, the quantity was then encreas'd to half a pound at each eruption; he and his friends having often view'd the quantity, and found it to be thus much.

The *Manner* of the Flux was alſo remarkable; for, without any Pain of Head, Streightneſs of Breath, or any ſigns of Fulneſs, or other Symptoms whatever obſerved by him, excepting only a ſtiffneſs, on the utmoſt Joynt of

of the ſaid (Left) Thumb; the Blood uſed to ſpin out, with a conſiderable force, on a ſudden, in ſeveral little ſtreams, and continue ſo to do, until the greater part of the quantity was diſcharged. Under this diſcharge, however copious, he was ſtrong and vigorous to the age of twenty four, from his moſt early and tender years.

At that age (of 24) finding this Evacuation troubleſome, and being uneaſie under it, he ſear'd with a hot Iron the part, which uſed to open, and give vent to the flux of Blood. I ſaw that part, it was hard and callous to the diameter of $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. The ſearing had ſtopt the Hæmorrhage to the day I took this account, (which was on *Dec.* 11. 1697,) that is, about twenty years.

This ſtoppage was in its effects very dangerous, and of ill conſequence; for within one quarter of a year after it he fell into a *Sputum Sanguinis*; bringing up from his Lungs vaſt quantities of Blood. This new Complaint, together with a Cough attending it, reduced him very low; ſo that his Phyſician, old Dr *Dike* of *Somerſetſhire*, (a perſon of great Learning and Experience in our Profeſſion) thought him utterly loſt in a Conſumption; but by frequent Bleeding, *&c.* deliver'd him from this *Hæmoptoe*: yet not with that Relief which was expected: For in a very little time the Patient fell into a moſt violent Colic; from no other occaſion (that he could diſcover) than his late illneſs, putting on a new form, and the matter ſettling on the Bowels.

This Colic was in good meaſure overcome by Purging Medicines; but a diſpoſition to it ſtill remains; for he has ever ſince been often troubled with it (as alſo with a Spitting of Blood) on the leaſt exceſs of Cold or Motion.

In ſhort, he has, ever ſince the ſtoppage of that firſt Hæmorrhage, been weak, ſickly, of a ſallow, faint look; much impair'd as to health, in compariſon to what he enjoy'd

enjoy'd during the time of its Periodical Returns; and gives an Argument, *That when Nature has choſen, and for ſome length of time, exerciſed new and extraordinary methods of Oeconomy, ſhe ſeems to be as fond of their Continuance, as at other times, and in her moſt regular ſtate, ſhe is of that which is her moſt uſual and ordinary courſe.*

There is a further uſe to be made of this, and ſuch like Monthly Hemorrhages, *in Men*; whither by the Thumb, (as in the preſent caſe) or *per penem*; (of which there have been in this Country two conſiderable Inſtances in my time) or any other part of the Body. For theſe Evacuations, being analogous to the *Menſes* in Women, Confute the opinion of all ſuch as derive that Diſcharge from a *Fermentum Uterinum*. How can we think the *Menſes* come from ſuch a Local Ferment; when a Diſcharge, in all reſpects equivalent to them, takes place, where no ſuch ferment is, or can be ſuppos'd.